(a) whether Government are implementing the scheme for setting up of rural godowns in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details as to how it is implemented, targets achieved, so far, in the state;

(c) whether Government would set up such godowns in Block Panchayats of the State, in the near future due to frequent natural calamities like cyclone and floods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The Central Government provide financial assistance to State Governments for construction of godowns under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening of Public Distribution System. The assistance is provided as 50% subsidy and 50% loan on the basis of detailed proposals received from State Governments and after ascertaining utilisation of assistance provided under the scheme in the past. The Government has received a proposal from Government of Orissa for financial assistance to construct 96 godowns in various cyclone prone blocks/districts of Orissa. The proposal is under active consideration.

Gyandarshan on agriculture

1555. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national channel on education Gyandarshan has been inaugurated by the Minister of Human Resource Development on 26th January, 2000 with a wide range of subjects such as science and technology, trade and commerce, sports and health;

(b) whether Government would also arrange a similar channel on agricultural through ICAR, Agriculture Universities or Krishi Vigyan Kendras for accelerating agricultural production and improving the socio-economic condition of the farming community;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The test transmission of

Doordarshan's Educational Channel called 'Gyandarshan' has started from 26.1.2000. The channel is a joint venture of the Ministry of HRD, Doordarshan and IGNOU. It will deal with a wide range of subjects in education, like pre-school, primary, secondary, non-formal, continuing, extension, vocational, distance, management, IT and environment; science & technology; human rights; empowerment of women; health education; sports; and trade and commerce. The channel is now presently transmitting 9 hours 15 minutes daily, *i.e.*, 5:45---11:00 AM and 5:00---9:00 PM.

(b) to (d) Currently, Doordarshan is telecasting "Krishi Darshan" programme half an hour five days in a week including three days on "Gaon Ki Mahilaon Ke Liya", "Mitti Ki Mehak" and "Dharti Ka Aanchal" for the benefits of farmers and farm women. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) do not have such plan for separate channel at present.

Grant provided to NGOs

†1556. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of grant provided to NGOs under the Ministry in each State during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the number of the NGOs in each State which have not satisfactorily utilised the amount of grant during the last three years and what action is being taken against such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The State-wise grants provided during last three years under the Scheme—Agricultural Extension through Voluntary Organisations, implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are detailed below:

Rs. in lakhs

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bihar	10.00	05.00	10.00
Karnataka	07.47	10.00	05.00
Madhya Pradesh	09.04	10.00	06.60

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.